



## Strategies to Support Expressive Language Skills

1. Tell them what things are and what they do. **Model** and **repeat** new and less-familiar vocabulary and concepts. **Provide opportunities** for the child to use them appropriately and immediately.
2. Encourage the child's use of language by **praising their responses**, and repeating it back to them to show you have understood, whilst modelling accurate sentence structure, e.g.  
Child: "I play Luke"  
Adult: "Oh, you played **with** Luke"
3. When introducing new topics, spend some time with the child **pre-teaching** the key vocabulary and concepts before presenting it at a class-level
4. **Expansion:** Add new words to what the child has said e.g.  
Child: "Look! Fire engine"  
Adult: "Yes, it's a fire engine, a **noisy** fire engine"
5. **Linking:** Join the child's phrases together to make a longer sentence e.g.  
Child: "He's sad. He's lost his teddy"  
Adult: "Yes. He's sad **because** he's lost his teddy"
6. **Give 'sentence starters'**. These are often better than questions – they will take the pressure off the child and encourage them to respond e.g.  
"Kipper wanted to ....."  
"We put the key in the water and ....."
7. Encourage the child to **monitor** and self-correct e.g. "Did he ranned or did he run"
8. **Provide opportunities** for the child to ask for what they need. Don't always provide the correct equipment for a given task or activity. When playing games give the child a 'teacher' role so that they have to give the instructions.
9. Encourage the child to use language within 1-to-1 and small group settings, and **praise** all attempts.
10. Encourage the child to take time to **'think through'** their responses before starting to say them.